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Fact Sheet on Soil and Groundwater Contamination Peter Pan Cleaners 2231 Mendocino Avenue - Santa Rosa June 2008

Introduction

The presence of Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) in groundwater was discovered in 2002 when a private water supply well on Rowe Drive in Santa Rosa was tested for volatile organic chemicals (VOCs). Subsequent historical and physical investigative work identified the PCE source as Peter Pan Cleaners located at 2231 Mendocino Avenue in Santa Rosa (Site). PCE is a chemical typically used in the dry cleaning industry.

Lead Agency and Responsible Parties

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board is the State agency overseeing the groundwater investigation and cleanup project. Investigation work to date has been conducted on behalf of the property owners, who are identified as Responsible Parties.

Site Investigation

The Responsible Parties have conducted the investigative work in phases including the collection of soil, soil vapor, groundwater and surface water samples. The maximum PCE concentrations detected include: soil (3.0 parts per million (ppm)), groundwater (13,000 parts per billion (ppb)), and surface water (Poppy Creek 5.1 ppb). Preliminary results for soil vapor included a detection of 6,500 ug/m³ at the Site. PCE breakdown products are also present. The chemical methyl-tert-butyl ether (MTBE), a gasoline fuel oxygenate, is present at lesser concentrations and is unrelated to discharges from the Site.

The drinking water standard established by the state and federal government for PCE is 5 ppb (Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)). The California EPA and Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessment PCE screening levels (CHHSLs) for residential and commercial shallow soil vapor are 180 ug/m³ and 603 ug/m³, respectively.

Case Status

The study area and the known extent of PCE groundwater contamination is shown on Attachment A.

Future work includes the completion of vertical and lateral groundwater plume definition, implementation of an expanded soil vapor study, and implementation of interim and final remedial action plans. The plans for an expanded soil vapor study are in progress. Representative soil vapor concentrations are necessary for comparison with human health screening levels. Regional Water Board staff is also preparing a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) that will identify 1) all legally Responsible Parties, including past business owners/operators and 2) a time frame to complete the necessary remedial actions.

Domestic Water Supply

The water supply for the area of the Site is provided by the City of Santa Rosa's municipal water supply, which is not associated with the contaminated groundwater in the Site vicinity. In addition, our records show that some properties within the study area have private water wells. Regional Water Board and Sonoma County Environmental Health Division staff previously notified well owners of this situation and provided well water test results.

Public Notice and Participation

A component of groundwater remediation projects is public notice and participation. The purpose of this fact sheet is to inform the public of the investigation currently underway and the pending groundwater cleanup, and invite public participation and comments through the regulatory process. This fact sheet is also a reminder to well owners that water wells located in the study area should not be used.

If you would like to receive Regional Water Board correspondence related to the investigation and cleanup, would like to have your private water supply well tested, or if you have any further questions or comments, please contact Jo Bentz at jbentz@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (707) 576-2838. The file for the Peter Pan Cleaners site is available for public review by calling (707) 576-2220. Please refer to Case No. 1NSR390.